

**NEW HAMPSHIRE SUPREME COURT  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

**In Re: Patricia Coffey**

**#JC-07-015-G**

**MOTION FOR VOIR DIRE OF THE PANEL**

Patricia Coffey respectfully requests the panel chair to conduct a *voir dire* of the panel as set forth below for the following reasons:

1. Following the completion of the hearing on December 10, 2007, the panel retired to deliberate.

2. At approximately 5:00 p.m. on December 10, 2007, the media reported that a member of the panel, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, stated that the panel had rejected the joint recommendation of its counsel and Judge Coffey's counsel, but instead had decided to impose a suspension of "less than six months."

3. This premature disclosure, prior to receipt of the additional information requested from Judge Coffey at the conclusion of the hearing, and prior to the finalization of any decision, compromises the integrity of this process.

4. This is not the first time unauthorized disclosure of the Committee's deliberative session has occurred: following its meeting on October 30, 2007, press reports indicated that the panel had already rejected public censure as an appropriate sanction in this case.

5. These events taint the entire process, and at the very least, the initial step should be to determine which member or members are the source of this information, and whether and how the participation of such person or persons has impacted the fairness

and due process of the proceedings.

5. Accordingly, without prejudice to other remedial measures that may be sought, the respondent requests the panel chair to obtain affidavits from each panel member as to whether or not such member was the source of the leak to the press on the afternoon of December 10, 2007.

6. In addition, respondent requests that the panel not issue any decision in this matter until these issues are resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

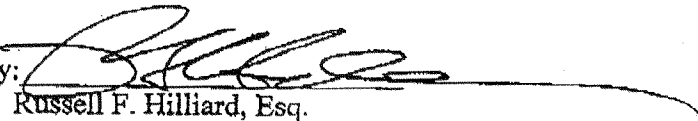
PATRICIA C. COFFEY,

By her Counsel,

UPTON & HATFIELD, LLP

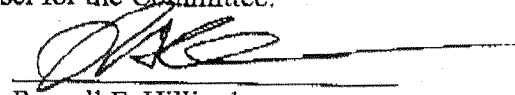
Date: December 11, 2007

By:

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Motion for *Voir Dire* of the Panel was forwarded to Philip T. McLaughlin, Esq., counsel for the Committee.

  
Russell F. Hilliard